

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of characterizing relative risks associated with a plurality of financial products performed on a computer having a hardware processor, comprising the steps of:

identifying one or more risk classes associated with the plurality of financial products by using an input device of the computer;

determining, for each of the risk classes, an expected occurrence rate by the processor;

dividing the expected occurrence rates determined by said step of determining by an average rate by the processor to determine a relative risk ratio for each of the risk classes;

calculating correlated risk ratios between at least two of the risk classes that are identified in said step of identifying to determine a dependence between the at least two different risk classes; and

comparing the relative risk ratios and the correlated risk ratios by the processor with empirical data to generate comparative risk data to characterize the relative risks associated with the plurality of products;

correcting the relative risk ratios in a case the comparative risk data is out of a defined range comparing with the empirical data; and

storing the corrected risk ratios to a storage unit of the computer.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more risk classes are associated with one or more criteria, and further comprising the step of:

modifying one or more of said criteria and repeating said steps of determining, dividing, calculating and comparing to determine an impact of said modification on the relative risks associated with the products.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of said risk classes are associated with different criteria, and wherein said relative risk ratios are used to compare said risk classes.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
using the relative risk ratio to redefine one or more of said risk classes.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
determining a separate relative risk ratio for sub-groups of risks.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
storing data in a data storage of said computer relating to prevalence of criteria associated with said risk classes for use in determining the relative risk ratios.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:
comparing the prevalence data to industry empirical data for particular combinations of criteria and, if necessary, adjusting the stored data to agree with the empirical data.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

storing data relating to the expected occurrence rates for use in determining the relative risk ratios.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

~~comparing the stored data to industry empirical data and, if necessary, adjusting the~~
the corrected risk ratios~~stored data~~ to agree with the empirical data.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

using the relative risk ratio to determine an impact on a risk class of including in that class one or more risks that do not meet one or more of the criteria associated with that class.

Claims 11-20 (Cancelled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A system having at least one hardware processor for characterizing relative risks associated with a plurality of financial products, comprising:

an identifying unit for identifying one or more risk classes associated with the plurality of financial products;

a determining unit for determining, for each of the risk classes, an expected occurrence rate;

a dividing unit for dividing the expected occurrence rates by an average rate to determine a relative risk ratio for each of the risk classes;

a calculating unit for calculating correlated risk ratios between at least two of the risk classes that are identified in said step of identifying to determine a dependence between the at least two different risk classes;~~and~~

a comparing unit for comparing the relative risk ratios and the correlated risk ratios with empirical data to generate comparative risk data to characterize the relative risks associated with the plurality of products;

a correcting unit for correcting the relative risk ratios in a case the comparative risk data is out of a defined range comparing with the empirical data; and

a storage unit of the computer for storing the corrected risk ratios.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 21, wherein said one or more risk classes are associated with one or more criteria, and further comprising:

a modifying unit for modifying one or more of said criteria and re-determining the relative risk ratio to determine an impact of said modification on the relative risks associated with the products.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 21, wherein one or more of said risk classes are associated with different criteria, and wherein said relative risk ratios are used to compare said risk classes.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 21, further comprising:

a calculation unit for using the relative risk ratio to redefine one or more of said risk classes.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 21, further comprising:
a determining unit for determining a separate relative risk ratio for sub-groups of risks.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 21, further comprising:
a storage unit for storing data relating to prevalence of criteria associated with said risk classes for use in determining the relative risk ratios.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 26, further comprising:
a comparison unit for comparing the prevalence data to industry empirical data for particular combinations of criteria; and
an adjustment unit for adjusting the stored data to agree with the empirical data.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 21, further comprising:
a storage unit for storing data relating to the expected occurrence rates for use in determining the relative risk ratios.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 28, further comprising:
~~a comparison unit for comparing the stored data to industry empirical data; and~~
an adjustment unit for adjusting the corrected risk ratios ~~stored data~~ to agree with the empirical data.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 21, wherein said one or more risk classes are associated with one or more criteria, and further comprising:

a calculation unit for using the relative risk ratio to determine an impact on a risk class of including in that class one or more risks that do not meet one or more of the criteria.

Claims 31-43 (Cancelled).

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): A system having at least one hardware processor for evaluating an individual risk for inclusion in, or exclusion from, a risk class associated with a financial product, comprising:

an identifying unit for identifying one or more risk classes associated with the financial product;

a first determining unit for determining, for at least one of the risk classes, a relative risk ratio;

a second determining unit for determining, for an individual risk, a relative risk ratio;

a comparing unit for comparing the relative risk ratio of the individual to the relative risk ratio of the risk class to determine a class ratio; and

a third determining unit for excluding the individual risk from the risk class, in a case where the comparing unit has determined that the class ratio is out of a defined range in comparison with pre-stored empirical data~~not acceptable~~.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 44, wherein one or more of said risk classes are associated with a plurality of criteria, and further comprising:

a fourth determining unit for determining relative risk ratios for subgroups of criteria.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 45, wherein said means for comparing the relative risk ratio of the individual to the relative risk ratio of the risk class comprises:

a comparing unit for comparing the relative risk ratio of the individual to one or more of the relative risk ratios determined for the subgroups of criteria.

Claim 47 (New): The method of characterizing relative risks according to claim 3, wherein the different criteria used for the risk classes are diastolic blood pressure and systolic blood pressure.

Claim 48 (New): The system according to claim 23, wherein the different criteria used for the risk classes are diastolic blood pressure and systolic blood pressure.

Claim 49 (New): The system according to claim 45, wherein the different criteria used for the risk classes are diastolic blood pressure and systolic blood pressure.